

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE COMING TO A PUBLIC HEALTH POINT OF DISPENSING (POD)

### What is a point of dispensing (POD)?

Points of dispensing or PODs will be set up in the state to distribute medicine, vaccine and medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile, known as the SNS. The stockpile is designed to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency (terrorist attack, flu outbreak, natural disaster) severe enough to cause local supplies to run out. Each state has plans to receive and distribute SNS supplies to local communities as quickly as possible.

### What should I expect at the point of dispensing (POD)?

When you arrive at the POD, you will go through four simple steps:



1. **Fill Out Form:** You will list each person in your household or group.
2. **Show Form:** Staff will review your form and direct you to the next station.
3. **Turn in Form:** We'll provide you with the appropriate medicine or vaccine.
4. **Exit the POD:** If you were given medication, begin taking soon after leaving the POD.

We ask for your patience throughout the process.

### What should I bring to the POD?

- Even though it is not necessary, if you have a driver's license, please bring it with you. A driver's license will help speed the process.
- Adults may pick up medication (pills) for other members of their family. If a vaccine is being given, all family members will need to come to the POD.  
For children, please bring weight, age, health information, drug allergies and list of current medications.  
For adults please bring health information, drug allergies and list of current medications.
- PODs may be crowded and you may have to stand in line for a while. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water, snacks or other comfort items you might need.
- If you have difficulty standing in line or have other special needs, people will be there to assist you. For help, please make contact with a staff member wearing a colored vest.

**How quickly can supplies from the SNS get to my community?**

The SNS supplies are located at various sites throughout the country. When requested, the supplies will be delivered to North Dakota, divided into smaller quantities and then delivered to the points of dispensing across the state. Supplies will be available at the local sites as fast as possible.

**Medications are expensive. What if I can't afford it?**

Supplies in the SNS are FREE for everyone.

**How will I know where to get my vaccine or medication?**

In the event that the SNS is needed for a public health emergency, PODs will be set up in locations where the event is happening or statewide. Information about POD sites will be released through television, radio, newspapers and other media. Information also will be available from your local public health unit and the state health department's website at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov). A state public health hotline will be set up to answer questions from the public.

